

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
Richard Craig et al. ) Before the Examiner  
Filed Herewith ) (not yet assigned)  
Divisional of App. No. 09/771,064 )  
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE ) Group Art Unit 3641  
DETECTION OF HYDROGENOUS )  
MATERIALS ) December 16, 2003

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 20231

In response to the Office Action dated July 18, 2003 in Application Serial No. 09/771,064, Applicants timely filed an Amendment with a Request for Continuing Examination (RCE). Applicants then received an Office Communication dated December 1, 2003 stating that, while the Amendment was *bona fide*, it would not be entered unless presented in a divisional application. The present divisional application is being filed within the one month time period given. Therefore no extensions of time are believed to be due. Please charge any fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include the payment of any issue fees.